# The GARZETTE

November, 2001 Volume 11, Issue 8



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### From the Oval Office

By Susan Swiderski, AF4FO, GARS President

Whew! October sure was a busy month, wasn't it? If you weren't able to make it to the club meeting, you missed another good one. Bev and Walter did a terrific job sharing highlights of their ham trip to Russia. (Here's to propagation...!) Our favorite SM, Sandy Donahue, W4RU, paid us a visit and initiated a bit of a discussion on the possible elimination of the code as a requirement for licensing. Interestingly enough, only four



people out of all those in attendance actually favored the elimination.

Whether or not the code requirements are dropped in the future, they're still in place for now. Have YOU assed your 5 WPM yet? Need some help? I'm

delighted to announce that Ron Langston, WE5O, as of October 23, has re-started the GARS 2M code practice net. He's doing a fantastic job with it, too. So, check it out. and check in with Ron every Tuesday evening at 9PM. Ron will also be teaching a codeclass in the near future, and he promises that it will be FUN!! And you WILL learn it! The time and place is TBA, but if you're interested in learning code from one of the best, and didn't already sign up at the meeting, please get (continued page 4)



Victor Gann, W4VEG participates in Gold Rush 2001 and is seen showing a group of scouts how to operate on HF.

See Earl Whatley's article on Page 7

### THE GARZETTE

The GARZETTE is the official monthly organ of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the amateur radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriated publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word format or by email to N1TOQ@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via email to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the amateur radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of *The GARZETTE* articles by other amateur radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and to *The GARZETTE*.

The GARZETTE is created on an Emachine -333 MHz computer using Microsoft Publisher 2000 and Microsoft Office 97.

The GARZETTE is published each month with the assistance of Hal Manning, who prints the news letter. Darren Pierce AG4BF does the final production work on The GARZETTE by folding & labeling. Barbara Moon, KF4UPN stamps and gets the end product to the Post Office each month. Many thanks to each of them and all article contributors.

# Deadline for submissions is the Week of the Monthly Meeting for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For any additional information contact: Newsletter Editor: Barry Zoll, N1TOQ (770)277-5175 N1TOQ@arrl.net

All correspondence relating to articles posted in *The GARZETTE* or for information concerning advertising rates should be drected to the following address:

Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society P.O. Box 88 Lilburn, GA 30048 Attn: Newsletter Editor



### **GARS Elmers**

Many of us Hams got interested in the hobby as a result of some influence and experienced Ham had on us. In my case, a ham stopped at my dealership back in the mid-80's to arrange a repair on his outboard motor. He had a funny looking license tag on his yellow Corvette and I inquired what it was. Little did I know, he would be my "Elmer".

The GARS organization is blessed with a lot of talented members that are willing to share their knowledge. The following list is made up of those individuals willing to serve as Elmers. Hopefully, this list will grow, and in time, maybe we'll get more who are willing to add a particular area of expertise.

KF4KSE David Moon (770) 279-9924 mobile radio installation KG4IUM Andrea Hartlage (770) 963-2715 making QSL cards N1TOQ Barry Zoll (678)-339-2605 Generators and Standby Power

> W8KJM, Barney Barnes (APRS) KG4FXG, Bill Carter CW/NTS

### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

WE5O Ron Langston (770) 569-8354 N1TWX Win Jackson (404) 869-1347 W4WKP Johnnie Fearon (770) 466-6401 WB2YAD Duane WB9JSW, Carl K4MJK Mike Kovak K4CB Carter Bennett (770) 923-5446 W4ADE Ade Wirth (770) 614-3743 K4HBI Mike Swiderski (770) 449-0369

If you'd like to be a GARS Elmer, please email the editor of the Garzette at N1TOQ@arrl.net or call 678-339-2605.

### **GARS** Auction By Sellit Aull

Lawrenceviile GA (USA) - The Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society (GARS) held it's first annual Auction on October 20th at Briscoe Field in Lawrenceville. Although there was a light turn-out, the club managed to raise \$1139.20 for the GARS Scholarship Fund.

There was quite a selection of items that were auctioned thanks to the generosity of club members, other hams, the local community, area businesses, and the EAA for the use of their facility. The Venture Crew sold food and drink (Ray Back was using his wellhoned sales skills to sell popcorn and batteries for the crew) and a good time was had by all.

Mike, K4HBI, and Cliff, KF4DZV were the auctioneers and managed to get through the day without losing their voices. Andrea Hartlage, KG4IUM hosted the kids auction and it was rumored that talent scouts for several major TV studios were in the audience waiting to make her an offer !(hi, hi).

With the success of this first auction. I'm sure that there will be more to come. Have an idea for 2002? Contact our Presdient, Susan AF4FO. She's all ears!!!

### STAY CONNECTED!

- Call the nets
- Attend the Meetings
- Use the Email List
- **Check the Website** 
  - Www.gars.org



### GARS

### Officers

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Susan Swiderski, AF4FO **Vice President** Sid Williams, K4SID

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Sharon Carter, KG4HKO

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Bill Carter, KG4FXG

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Marty Fowler, KE4MLH

**QSL Manager** 

Ade Wirth, W4ADE (770)614-3743

Webmaster

Mike, K4MJK

#### **CW Net Manager**

Ron Langston, WE5O

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### From the Oval Office

(continued from page 1)

in touch with Ron or me, so we can get you on the list.

In last month's newsletter, there was an article about how renewing your ARRL membership through the club can earn the club \$2. That's no longer the case. As of October 1, renewals no longer earn a rebate at all.... however, NEW memberships paid through the club will earn the club a whopping \$15. As a Special Service Club, it's required that at least 51% of our club members be members of the ARRL. As a rule, we far exceed that level. However, if you are not a member of the League, I would urge you to join. This is THE organization that speaks for us as amateur radio operators and represents our interests on Capitol Hill. And, if you're joining, why not join through GARS? See Dan, KF4YSU, for more information.

We had three major activities in October.... the EAA Fall Classic Fly-In special event station, Gold Rush days with the Scouts, and the auction to raise money for the scholarship fund. Like every other activity that GARS has ever undertaken, everyone involved had a ton of fun, which makes them all huge successes in my book. Let me tell you a little about the auction. Mike, K4HBI, and Cliff, KF4DZV, did a terrific job as auctioneers. Not only did they manage to entertain us and keep us chuckling, but they also managed to sell off a tremendous amount of stuff..... really terrific stuff, I might add. You wouldn't BE-LIEVE some of the incredible deals that were made! (Ask Bruce, KG4MQL.... he made so many trips to the cashier that he wore his own personal footpath in the hangar floor! He kept mumbling something about about "...just couldn't pass it up!!!") Andrea, KG4IUM, ran a Kids' auction, too, and like everything else this wonderkid does, she did a great job with it. Heartfelt thanks to Kenwood and to each of the club members who so generously donated items to the club to auction, to Carol and Victor and the Venture crew, who kept us all well-fed, and to each and every one of you who helped make the auction a success. It was a lot of work, but it was definitely worth it!! Despite the low turn-out of attendees, we

raised \$1139.20 for our scholarship fund! A terrific job by everyone involved! Thank you all. (Who's ready to start planning for next year....?)

November will bring the area's biggest and best.... hamfest, that is. That, of course, is the Alford Memorial ARC's hamfest on the 3rd and 4th of the month. Like Gordon, KF4OKA, says, "All roads lead to Lawrenceville". Hope to see you all there. And don't forget to stop by the GARS booth while you're there.... how about lending Carol and Victor a hand?

It's a pleasure to tell you that we have another Elmer to add to our list: Barney Barnes, W8KJM, whose particular area of expertise is APRS. Barney and the rest of our club Elmers are a wonderful group of fellas who are willing to share the benefits of their experience and expertise with the rest of us. Keep them in mind when you run into a knot in your amateur radio endeavors, and maybe one of them can help you untangle it. Also, while I'm talking about Elmers, the ARRL will be running a new feature on the Web on Elmers, and they want your input. Do you have a story about someone in the club who's been an excellent Elmer to you? Write it out and send it to mbourgoing@arrl.org.... a chance to put your GARS Elmer in the spotlight.

The program at next month's club meeting, on November 15, will be on Venture crew 73, so we can hear all about their latest adventures and their plans for the future. GARS is extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to sponsor such a fine group of young people, so please come on out to the meeting and show them your support.

Don't forget.... the Holiday party is right around the corner, folks! It's gonna be on December 1 at 7PM, at Central Baptist Church. Things will be pretty much the same as last year.... Marty will dazzle us with those yummy meats, and the rest of us are to bring a covered dish and/or dessert. The cost will also be \$5 per person, or \$15 per family. Come have fun with the GARS family, and see who will be named this year's Ham of the Year.

(continued on page 5)

### GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

### **October Meeting Minutes**

October 24, 2001 Submitted by Sid Williams, K4SID, GARS VP

Meeting Called to Order @ 7:30 PM

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Susan, President; Sid, VP; Dan, Treasurer; Bill, Activities

**Visitors**: Wayne VE3ZXR all the way from Canada, the road before something like this is finalized. Larry WT4XX, and his wife Ellen all the way from N.C., Mike KE4MF, Morgan KG4PAN, Sharon K4SAL, and Steve KG4POG

Last month's minutes - approved

Treasurer's report accepted

Victor Gann, W4VEG - Upgraded to EXTRA CLASS

Earl Whatley, AF4FG Gold Rush 2001 was a great success again this year and thanks all the GARS club volunteers for their help over the week end. There were approximately 3000 scouts in attendance.

Sci-Trek Amateur Radio station: For the first time, a number of GARS members participated in the clubs scheduled 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend volunteer staffing and operation of the station. All went well. There is a training day scheduled on November 11<sup>th</sup> for those who want to learn the ropes of opening up. operation and shutdown and close of the station. The next scheduled GARS weekend is November 17.

**Alford Hamfest** Gordon for tickets Gordon was present with tickets for sale at a reduced rate.

Meet & Eat - Sat. 10/27 5:00 PM At the GRILL Stone Mountain

This Months Presentation: Walter & Bev's Trip to Russia.

Sandy Donahue W4RU Talked about the move within the ITU to do away with the CW requirements, and asked our opinions. A poll was taken by a raise of hands and the majority of club members were against this move. Sandy indicated that it may be years down

**Unsung hero**—This months award goes to Scott KF4PUW for all the work he has done and donation of the GARS Welcome package.

**CW PRACTICE NET:** Starting back up 9pm on Tuesdays,

New CW class will be headed up by Ron WE5O. A sign up sheet was available and several members signed up for the new class. The start date will be announced.

### From the Oval Office

(continued from page 4)

The next executive meeting will be on November 12 at the No. 1 Super Chinese

Buffet on Hwy 120 in Lawrenceville.... eat at 6. meet at 7. Now that we have the money to fund our scholarship, it's time to work out the details. Got any input? Come join us.

Whew! Like I said, we sure have been busy! Hope you all slow down long enough to enjoy the gorgeous technicolor display that Mother Nature's been

providing for us these days, because it'll be all over with before you know it. Soak up this pictureperfect weather, and take care of yourselves....and each other. Until next month, this is AF4FO, signing clear. 73

### On the Air with Victor Gann, W4VEG

Victor was born In Camp LeJune, North Carolina where his father was a drill Sargent in the Marines. He graduated from Marshfield High School, home of Hubbell, the scientist the telescope is named after, in Marshfield, Missouri. Victor was a corporate vice-president in charge of credit for one company, a stockbroker, and for IBM, taught people and wrote comes up on a computer screen. courseware. He now works from home, part time, for IBM.

Victor became interested in amateur radio by two ways. One was when he was living in Orlando, Florida, where there are many hurricane scares. There was a hurricane coming, causing a giant line of cars on Interstate 95. Victor saw these guys on the sides of the road with radios. He asked who they were, and they told him that they are amateur radio operators. Victor wanted to know how you get to be an amateur radio operator, and he found out. The other way Victor became interested in ham radio was as a boy scout. Boy scouts who wanted to move up to a certain level had to learn Morse code. So, Victor did. Now that he is an amateur radio operator, it's like a childhood dream come true.

Victor's elmer was the ARRL library. He probably has 100 amateur radio books! Not only did Victor have these books, but also he put them to use; he used them to study. He also took practice tests online at the AA9PW site.

Victor got his first license, technician in October of 1999. (He did take the novice test in order to get his technician license.) One year later, Victor passed his General and morse code. Here recently, he passed his Extra. One week after Victor got his ticket, he made his first contact, Jonny Fearon, W4WKP. Victor has held the callsigns KG4DMW, W4VEG, and has now applied for A0VG. He applied for A0VG because it is Morse code friendly. (He will probably be A0VG by the time this article comes out.)

Victor's first rig was a VX5R. His first HF rig was a FT100, which he still uses for MARS. He now has 2 VX5Rs, the FT100, a Kenwood TMV7 mobile, which he says is a very good mobile rig, and

Oakhills OHR100/Explorer, a 30 meter CW rig which puts out 2.5 watts, and a Pixie radio. He also has some kits to put together.

Victor works 30 meter CW, 10 and 20 meter ssb, VHF, and UHF. Victor participates in MARS nets and has a MARS callsign. He enjoys PSK31 because it is unique, a digital mode, and everything

Victor's most interesting QSO was with the scouts. The scouts and him talked to a guy who was in a sailboat, on 20 meters. He had just installed a radio on his boat! Victor would like to talk to someone in space. He also has a goal do get his DXCC via CW!

Victor is married to Carol Gann, KG4ETR who is a General class operator. She has not missed one question on any of her amateur exams, including the Morse code! Victor is active with Venture Crew 73, and Carol does PR for GARS.

Victor's favorite part of ham radio is elmering. He loves helping others with the hobby and getting people interested in the hobby. Victor likes GARS because it is very vibrant. There are many people doing many things. He also enjoys GARS because he and Carol can do it together. His favorite amateur radio event was conducting the Pixie event. (The Pixie event was when many young people were elmered by adults, building Pixie radios.) He liked this event because he got to teach and everyone had fun.

Victor would give this advice to new hams. Learn all you can before buying equipment. This will help you make the wisest decisions about what equipment to buy. He also says to find out what part of ham radio you're interested in. Then focus on that one thing and learn it well. If you don't, you could become overwhelmed with everything.

I would like to thank Victor for doing this interview with me. He gave me a tremendous amount of information to work with! Please let me know if you have any suggestions of who you wish to see featured in this article. You can contact me by phone at 770-963-2715 or by e-mail at kg4ium@arrl.net Thank you all for reading this article! 73! KG4IUM, Andrea Hartlage



### Earl Whatley – AF4FG

At the 1993 Gold Rush there was only one ham operating one station and he didn't get a lot of attention from the scouts. Ham radio was something "old guys" did. One ham (who shall remain nameless) stated that he wanted to "lower the average age of hams to 60 before he got there". Through his efforts and with the help of GARS, interest grew steadily and when K2BSA first appeared at the 1999 Gold Rush there were over 20 scouts and adult leaders who had their ticket. This year that number had grown to almost 50 and the ham radio exhibit at Gold Rush 2001 was one of the most popular.

Past experience has shown that Morse code is a favorite among scouts so it was given a big part of the exhibit area. Scouts who learned to send their name in code were rewarded with a piece of candy and, after a bit of practice, many participated in the giant Morse code key contest. A scout sat at a table and sent a secret message to his patrol using a four foot key operated with his left foot. Patrols kept returning throughout the day to improve their time and better their chance of winning.

The cw station was one of the most popular. Scouts who had so recently learned their name in cw were fascinated by code at 20 words per minute. They couldn't understand it but they listened and watched intently as the operator wrote each letter. Many said they were able to recognize a few letters.

At the SSB stations and the PSK31 station the scouts were able to talk to willing hams around the world. There wasn't a single occasion when a ham wouldn't talk to a scout and many took the time to talk to a dozen or more. The technology of ham radio is impressive to a young boy but it is friendly and courteous hams that make the best impression. When a contact was made, the scout wrote his name and troop or pack number on a strip of paper and pinned it to the world map at the location of

his contact. By the end of the day the map was full.

Scouts were able to use their orienteering skills on a fox hunt in the afternoon. Hams with directional antennas were positioned at three fixed locations. Scouts watched the signal strength meter as the antenna was rotated and took a compass bearing in the direction of the strongest signal. Then they drew an azimuth on their map and triangulated the position of the fox. They were surprisingly accurate and the fox was found in a little more than an hour.

If it not for GARS and the help of its members, this event wouldn't have been nearly as successful as it was and many boys would still look at ham radio as something "old guys" do. Not only did we help them have a good time, we introduced many scouts to a new hobby. Those GARS members who helped will receive a personal letter of thanks from the Boy Scouts but you should know who they are. The next time you see them, thank them again.

Victor Gann	W4VEG
Bill Ahls	AB0KF
Carol Gann	KG4ERT
Mary Ahls	W4NZJ
Steve Back	WB2OGY
Scott Hartlage	KF4TWI
Jackie Snellgrove	KF4YUD
Andrea Hartlage	KG4IUM
Eric Snellgrove	KF4WUJ
Sid Williams	K4SID
Carter Wood	AG4LK
David Ball	KG4OJR
Sharron Carter	KG4HKD
Aaron Ball	
Bill Carter	KG4XFG
Ray Back	
Crystal Florea	

## Metro Atlanta Club Meetings

### First Tuesday

### **Metro Atlanta Telephone Pioneers**

Old Hickory House 5490 Chamblee/Dunwoody Rd, Dunwoody Dutch dinner is at 6:30 PM, followed by meeting. Talk In 145.410(-)

#### Kennehoochee ARC

First United Methodist Church in Marietta Meeting begins at 7:30 PM Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday Atlanta Radio Club

American Red Cross Building, Lindberg Plaza Meeting is at 7:30 PM Talk In -146.820(-)

### N.E. Georgia ARC

Jefferson Civic Center Off of Memorial Dr. toward Winder from Jefferson Meeting is at 6:30 PM Talk In - 147.225(+)

### North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Shoney's Restaurant
Holcomb Bridge Road at grimes Bridge Road
Dinner at 6:30 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM
Talk In - 145.47(-)

### Second Thursday Alford Memorial Radio Club

Killian Hall, Killian Hill Road Lilburn Dinner at 6:00 PM, meeting at 7:30 PM Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday East Atlanta LAN

St. Patrick's Episcopal Church Dunwoody Meeting is at 10:00 AM Talk In - 145.410(-) and 443.025(+)

### Third THURSDAY



### Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society

Central Baptist Church Gwinnett Drive Lawrenceville Meeting begins at 7:30 PM in the fellowship hall. Talk In -147.075(+) and 444.525(+)

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### Metro Atlanta VE Exam Schedule

**GARS** publishes Metro Atlanta area VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions.

### First Sunday

WCARS VEC 2:00 PM

(Except July and September) Johnson High School 3305 Poplar Springs RD, Gainsville Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

### First Saturday

9:00AM

Clayton County Emergency Management Building 7496 N. McDonough St., Jonesboro George White, KN4NG (770)361-6850

### Second Tuesday

7:00PM Walton EMC 3645 Lenora Church Rd, Snellville Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

### Second Saturday, Odd Months

CA VEC 8:30 AM

Stone Mountain Methodist Church 5312 West Mountain St. Stone Mountain Bob Verone, W4ETN (770)978-3179

### Third Saturday

CA VEC 9:00AM

Marietta First United Methodist Church Room 305, 56 Whitlock Ave Marietta Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC 7:00 PM Way Service (

United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466.

### Fourth Friday

W5YI VEC 7:00 PM St. John Neumann Church 801 Tom Smith Road Lilburn Headphones Provided! Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362



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# GARS Communication System

<u>6 Meter Repeater</u> 53.110 (-1 MHz) MHz

Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville

### 2 Meter Repeater

147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone
Main Repeater Site
Oak Street, Lawrenceville
Backup Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites
Bogan Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross
Lanier Mountain, Snellville

### 70 Cm Repeater

444.525(+) MHz
82.5 PL
Main Repeater Site
Lanier Mountain, Snellville
Remote Receive Sites
Under construction
Bogan Road, Buford
Goshen Springs Road, Norcross

### **APRS**

144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR/Relay

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### GWINNETT AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY

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Receive the **Garzette** via email... contact Scott Hartlage, KF4PWI@arrl.net



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## **Upcoming Events**

Committee Chairs: Let's fill this feature with dates and events to keep GARS members looking ahead!



### November 2001

Executive committee **3-4** Stone Mtn. Hamfest **15th** GARS Club Meeting

### December 2001

Executive committee 1 GARS Holiday Party (No GARS Monthly Meeting)

### January 2002

Executive committee

17th GARS Club Meeting
26th Tech Fest

### February 2002

Executive committee
21st GARS Club Meeting

### March 2002

Executive committee **21th** GARS Club Meeting

Meeting Time &
Location
3rd Thursday, 7:30 PM
Central Baptist
Church,
Gwinnett Drive,
Lawrenceville
Talk in 147.075(+) MHz
82.5 PL Tone